MARVEL®
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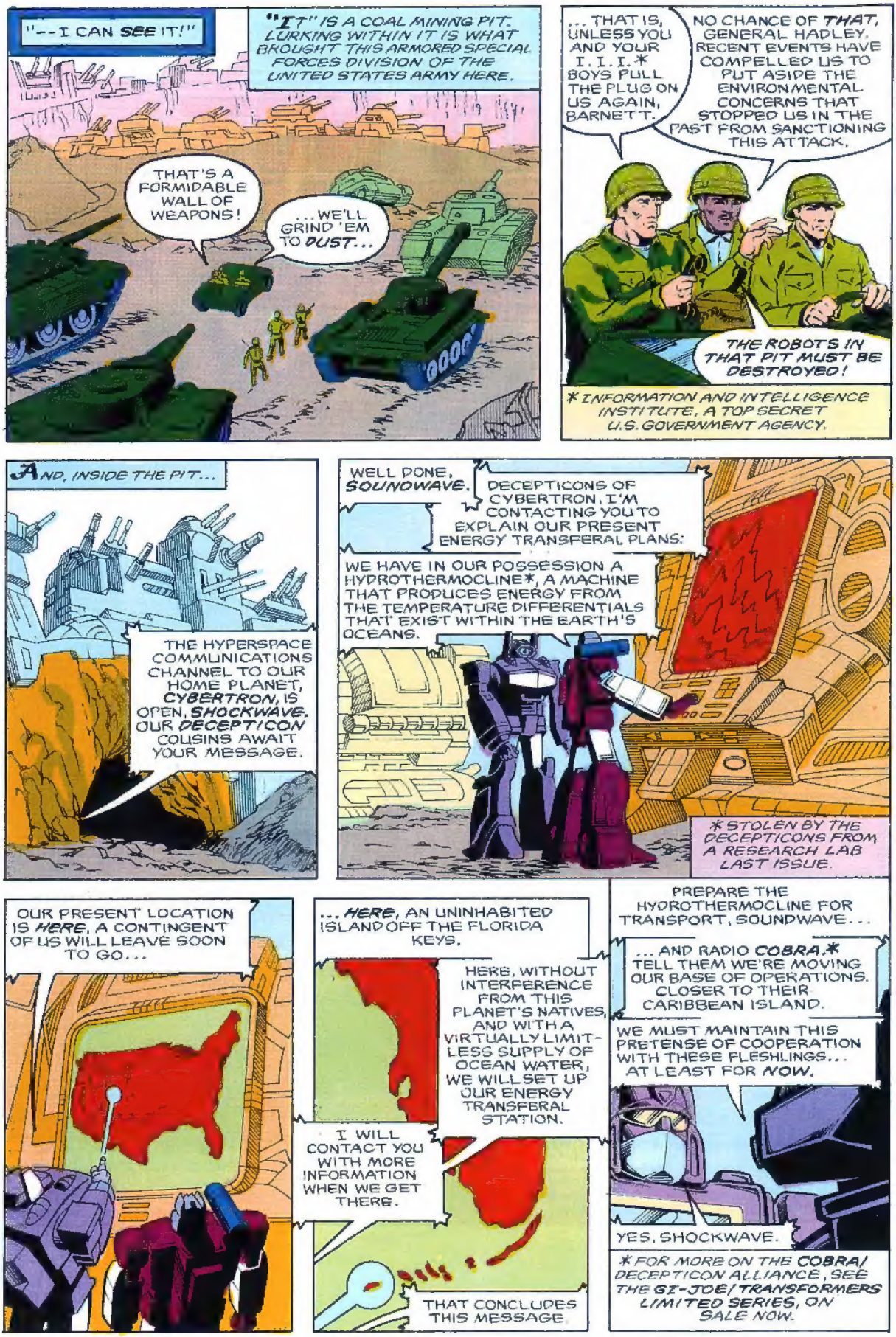
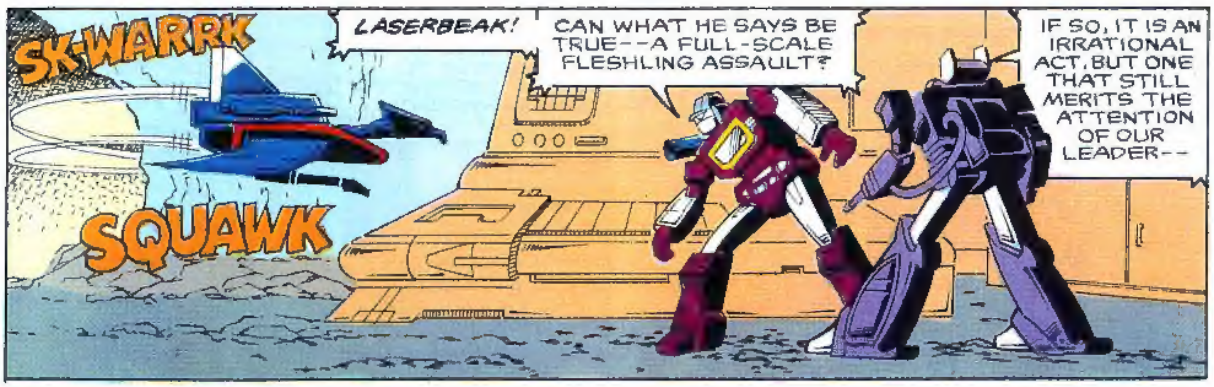
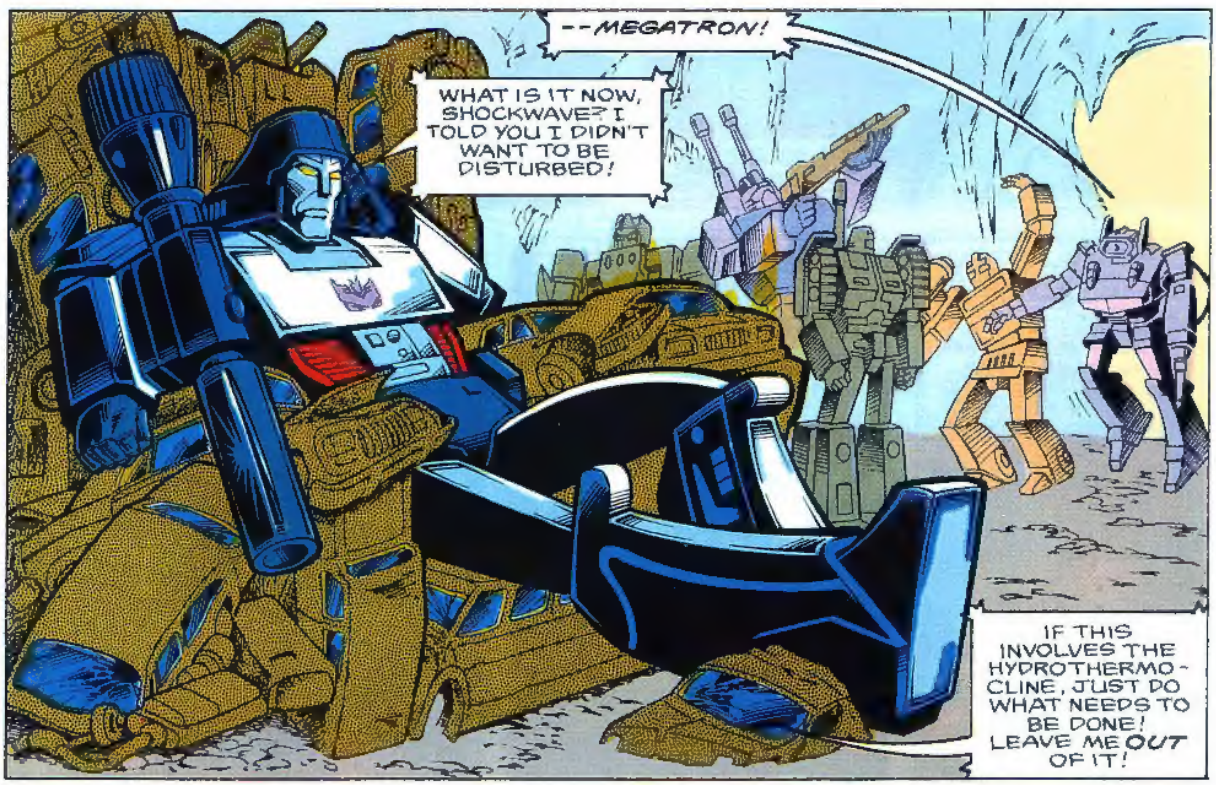
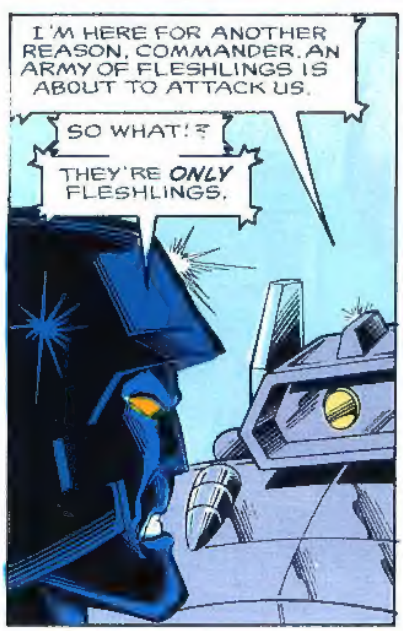
THE TRANSFORMERS™
HEROIC AUTOBOT
RAMPAGE!

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!
FOR GENERATIONS, GREAT CATTLE DRIVES MOVED ACROSS THE POWDER RIVER BASIN OF EASTERN WYOMING, DRAWN TO IT BY ITS CARPET OF LUSH GRASS.
BUT WHEN COAL WAS DISCOVERED HERE--50 BILLION TONS OF IT--THRONGS OF MINERS SEEKING RICHES REPLACED THE COWBOYS DRIVING CATTLE.
TODAY, A DRIVE OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SORT MOVES ACROSS THE BASIN...
...BUT IT'S NOT LOOKING FOR FOOD OR MINERAL WEALTH.
NO. THIS ONE IS LOOKING FOR A WAR...
ONE POINT EIGHT MILES FROM TARGET AND CLOSING.
SPARE ME THE PLAY BY PLAY, SKOLNIK--
BOB BUDIANSKY WRITER • DON PERLIN PENCILER • IAN AKIN & BRIAN GARVEY INKERS • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • NEL YOMTOV COLORIST • DON DALEY EDITOR • JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF


"--I CAN SEE IT!"
"IT" IS A COAL MINING PIT. LURKING WITHIN IT IS WHAT BROUGHT THIS ARMORED SPECIAL FORCES DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY HERE.
THAT'S A FORMIDABLE WALL OF WEAPONS!
...WE'LL GRIND 'EM TO DUST...
...THAT IS, UNLESS YOU AND YOUR I.I.I.* BOYS PULL THE PLUG ON US AGAIN, BARNETT.
NO CHANCE OF THAT, GENERAL HADLEY. RECENT EVENTS HAVE COMPELLED US TO PUT ASIDE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS THAT STOPPED US IN THE PAST FROM SANCTIONING THIS ATTACK.
THE ROBOTS IN THAT PIT MUST BE DESTROYED!
*INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTE, A TOP SECRET U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY.
AND, INSIDE THE PIT...
THE HYPERSPACE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL TO OUR HOME PLANET, CYBERTRON, IS OPEN, SHOCKWAVE. OUR DECEPTICON COUSINS AWAIT YOUR MESSAGE.
WELL DONE, SOUNDWAVE.
DECEPTICONS OF CYBERTRON, I'M CONTACTING YOU TO EXPLAIN OUR PRESENT ENERGY TRANSFERAL PLANS:
WE HAVE IN OUR POSSESSION A HYDROTHERMOCLINE*, A MACHINE THAT PRODUCES ENERGY FROM THE TEMPERATURE DIFFERENTIALS THAT EXIST WITHIN THE EARTH'S OCEANS.
*STOLEN BY THE DECEPTICONS FROM A RESEARCH LAB LAST ISSUE.
OUR PRESENT LOCATION IS HERE, A CONTINGENT OF US WILL LEAVE SOON TO GO...
...HERE, AN UNINHABITED ISLAND OFF THE FLORIDA KEYS.
HERE, WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THIS PLANET'S NATIVES, AND WITH A VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS SUPPLY OF OCEAN WATER, WE WILL SET UP OUR ENERGY TRANSFERAL STATION.
I WILL CONTACT YOU WITH MORE INFORMATION WHEN WE GET THERE.
THAT CONCLUDES THIS MESSAGE.
PREPARE THE HYDROTHERMOCLINE FOR TRANSPORT, SOUNDWAVE...
...AND RADIO COBRA.* TELL THEM WE'RE MOVING OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS CLOSER TO THEIR CARIBBEAN ISLAND.
WE MUST MAINTAIN THIS PRETENSE OF COOPERATION WITH THESE FLESHLINGS... AT LEAST FOR NOW.
YES, SHOCKWAVE.
*FOR MORE ON THE COBRA/DECEPTICON ALLIANCE, SEE THE GI-JOE/TRANSFORMERS LIMITED SERIES, ON SALE NOW.


SK-WARRK
SQUAWK
LASERBEAK!
CAN WHAT HE SAYS BE TRUE--A FULL-SCALE FLESHLING ASSAULT?
IF SO, IT IS AN IRRATIONAL ACT, BUT ONE THAT STILL MERITS THE ATTENTION OF OUR LEADER--

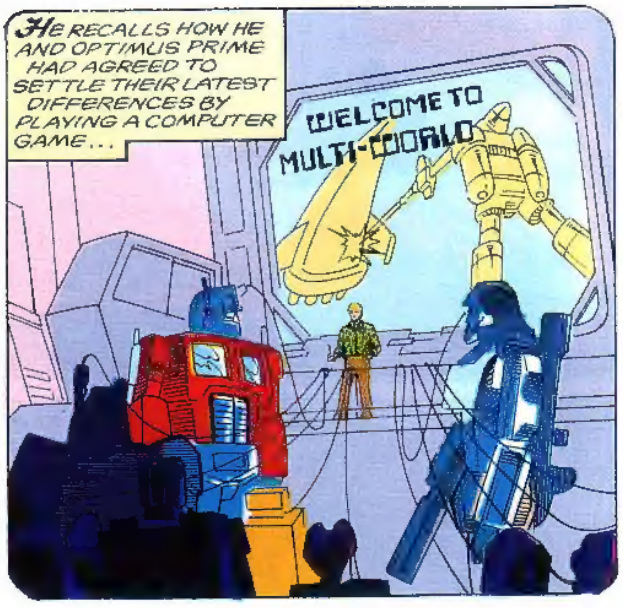

--MEGATRON!
WHAT IS IT NOW, SHOCKWAVE? I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED!
IF THIS INVOLVES THE HYDROTHERMO-CLINE, JUST DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE! LEAVE ME *OUT* OF IT!

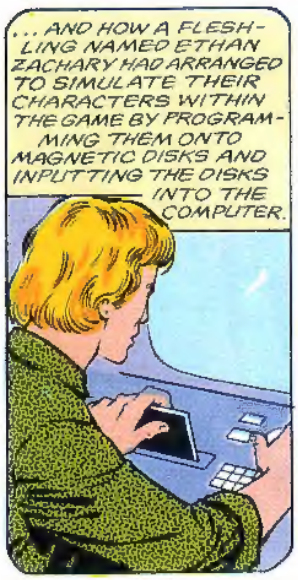

I'M HERE FOR ANOTHER REASON, COMMANDER. AN ARMY OF FLESHLINGS IS ABOUT TO ATTACK US.
SO WHAT!?
THEY'RE *ONLY* FLESHLINGS.

BUT THAT ATTITUDE IS IRRATIONAL. THEY POSE A FORMIDABLE THREAT, ONE THAT SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO YOU.

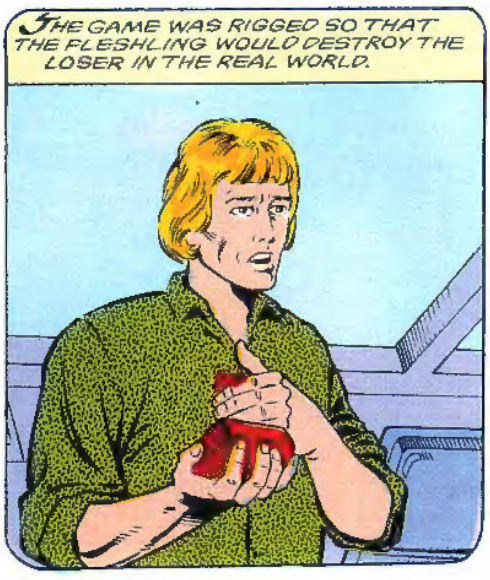
ONLY *OPTIMUS PRIME* CONCERNS ME...

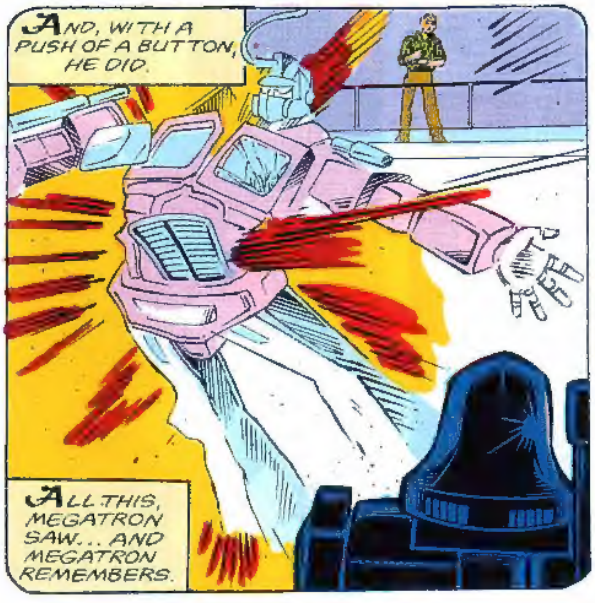
ELECTRONIC FLASHES SPARK ACROSS MEGATRON'S CEREBRO-CIRCUITRY. THEY COALESCE INTO A PICTURE IN HIS MIND...
...A PICTURE OF HIS MOST HATED FOE, THE AUTOBOT LEADER, OPTIMUS PRIME. HE SEES OPTIMUS IN BOTH HIS ROBOT AND TRUCK MODES.


HE RECALLS HOW HE AND OPTIMUS PRIME HAD AGREED TO SETTLE THEIR LATEST DIFFERENCES BY PLAYING A COMPUTER GAME...
WELCOME TO MULTI-WORLD

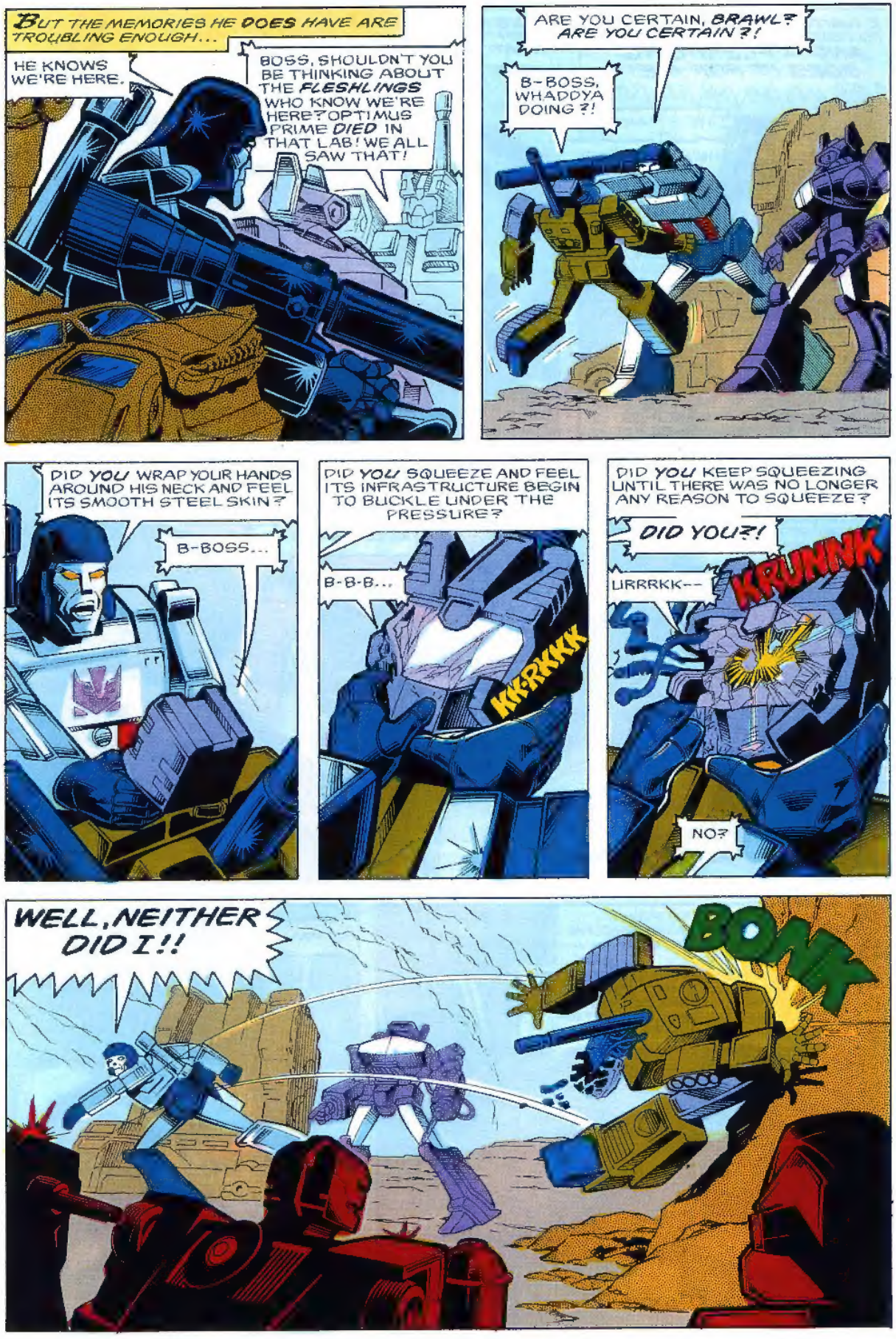

...AND HOW A FLESHLING NAMED ETHAN ZACHARY HAD ARRANGED TO SIMULATE THEIR CHARACTERS WITHIN THE GAME BY PROGRAMMING THEM ONTO MAGNETIC DISKS AND INPUTTING THE DISKS INTO THE COMPUTER.

HE RELIVES THE BATTLE THEY FOUGHT WITHIN THE GAME, HOW HE CHEATED WITHOUT OPTIMUS PRIME'S KNOWLEDGE...
...AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, HOW OPTIMUS PRIME LOST.

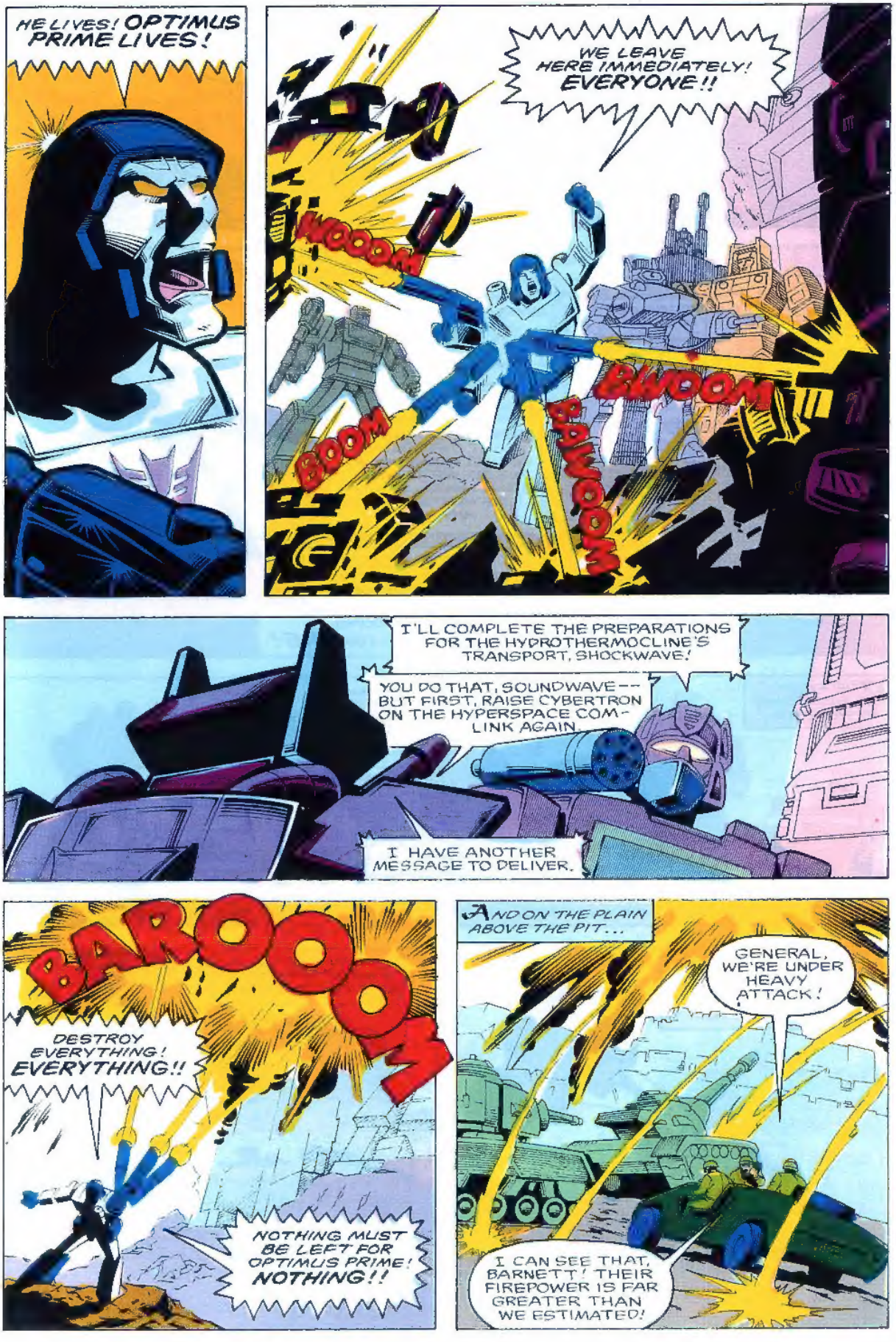

THE GAME WAS RIGGED SO THAT THE FLESHLING WOULD DESTROY THE LOSER IN THE REAL WORLD.

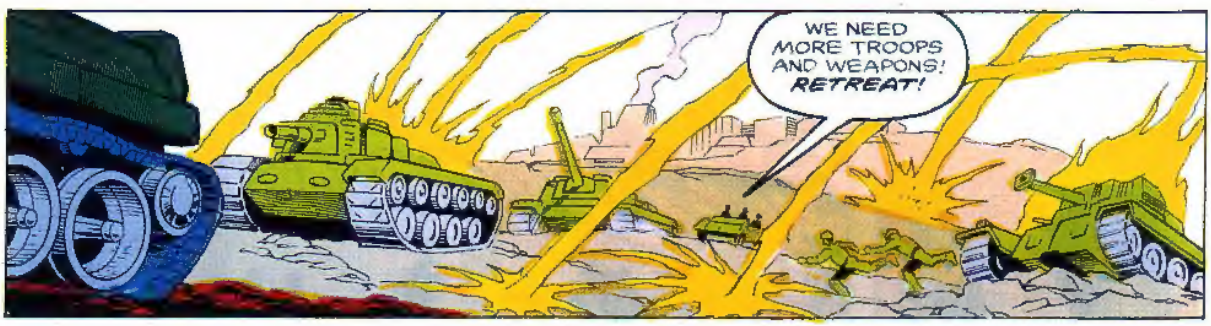

AND, WITH A PUSH OF A BUTTON, HE DID.
ALL THIS, MEGATRON SAW... AND MEGATRON REMEMBERS.

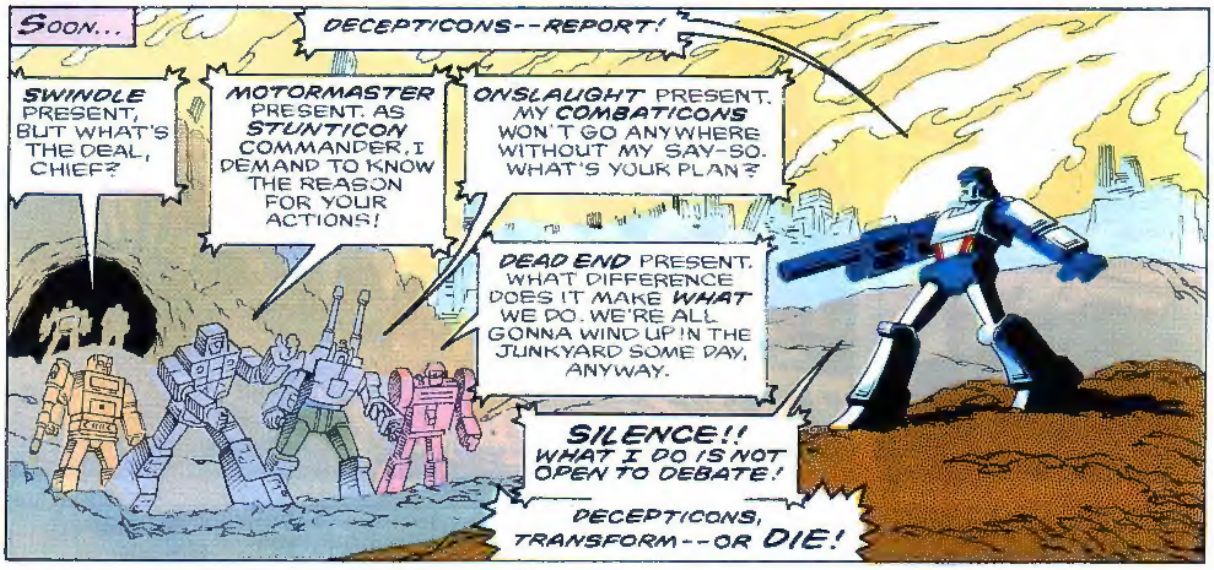
BUT WHAT HE DID NOT SEE WAS THAT ETHAN ZACHARY HAD COPIED OPTIMUS PRIME'S PERSONALITY ONTO ANOTHER DISK BEFORE THE GAME'S, AND OPTIMUS PRIME'S, END.*
HE WOULD HAVE FOUND THAT A MOST DISTURBING SIGHT INDEED.
OPTIMUS PRIME
*ALL THESE INCIDENTS WERE SHOWN LAST ISSUE.

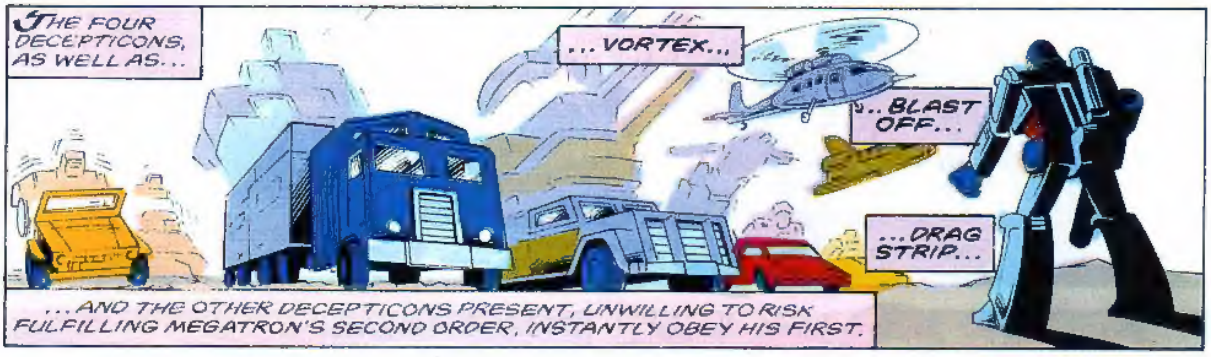

BUT THE MEMORIES HE DOES HAVE ARE TROUBLING ENOUGH...
HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE.
BOSS, SHOULDN'T YOU BE THINKING ABOUT THE FLESHLINGS WHO KNOW WE'RE HERE? OPTIMUS PRIME DIED IN THAT LAB! WE ALL SAW THAT!
ARE YOU CERTAIN, BRAWL? ARE YOU CERTAIN?!
B-BOSS, WHADDYA DOING?!
DID YOU WRAP YOUR HANDS AROUND HIS NECK AND FEEL ITS SMOOTH STEEL SKIN?
B-BOSS...
DID YOU SQUEEZE AND FEEL ITS INFRASTRUCTURE BEGIN TO BUCKLE UNDER THE PRESSURE?
B-B-B...
KK-RKKK
DID YOU KEEP SQUEEZING UNTIL THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY REASON TO SQUEEZE?
DID YOU?!
URRRKK--
KRUNNK
NO?
WELL, NEITHER DID I!!
BONK

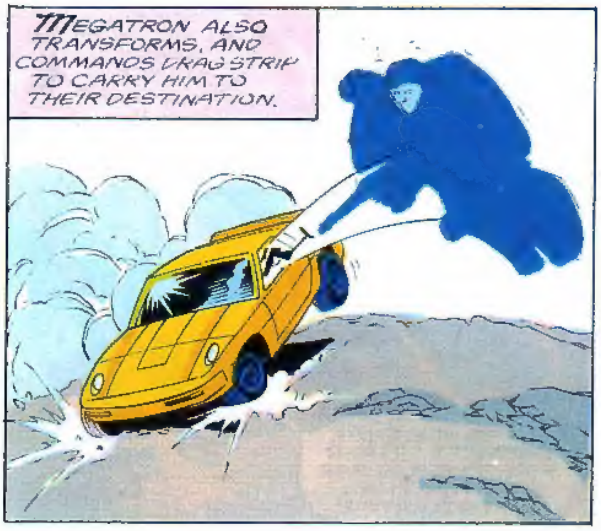
I WAITED 4,000,000 YEARS TO DESTROY OPTIMUS PRIME-- AND A FLESHLING DOES IT FOR ME!
HE'S MAD.
HE'S A DANGER TO ALL OUR PLANS FOR CONQUERING THIS WORLD'S ENERGY RESOURCES AS LONG AS HE'S IN COMMAND...
... AND HE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO CHALLENGE AT THIS MOMENT.
BUT IT'S LOGICAL THAT HE CAN BE A DANGER TO HIMSELF AS WELL... IF PROPERLY DIRECTED...
DOES ANYONE ELSE WISH TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO?!
MEGATRON...
AH, SHOCKWAVE-- DO YOU WISH TO CHALLENGE ME FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DECEPTICONS AGAIN?
ARE YOU PREPARED TO FIGHT ME AGAIN--AND THIS TIME PAY WITH YOUR MISERABLE LIFE?!
NO, COMMANDER.
I ONLY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT YOU'VE RAISED AN INTRIGUING QUESTION--
--SINCE OPTIMUS PRIME DIED AS A RESULT OF A GAME THAT SIMULATED YOUR CHARACTERS, COULDN'T HIS DEATH HAVE BEEN COMPUTER-SIMULATED AS WELL?
HMMM...

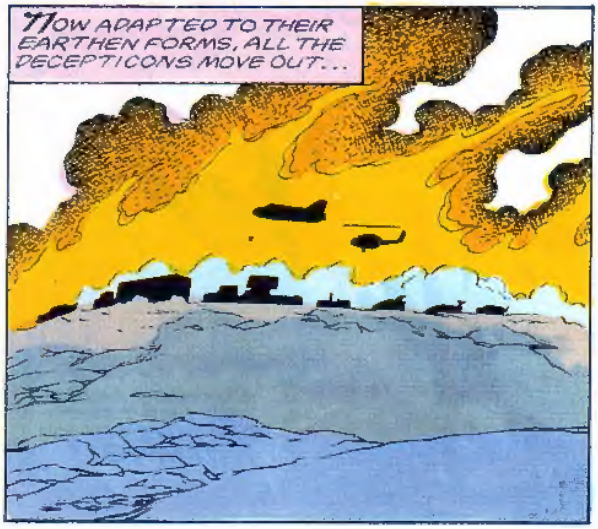

HE LIVES! OPTIMUS PRIME LIVES!
WE LEAVE HERE IMMEDIATELY! EVERYONE!!
WHOOOM
BOOM
BWOOM
KAWOOM
I'LL COMPLETE THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE HYDROTHERMOCLINE'S TRANSPORT, SHOCKWAVE!
YOU DO THAT, SOUNDWAVE -- BUT FIRST, RAISE CYBERTRON ON THE HYPERSPACE COM-LINK AGAIN.
I HAVE ANOTHER MESSAGE TO DELIVER.
BAROOOM
DESTROY EVERYTHING! EVERYTHING!!
NOTHING MUST BE LEFT FOR OPTIMUS PRIME! NOTHING!!
AND ON THE PLAIN ABOVE THE PIT...
GENERAL, WE'RE UNDER HEAVY ATTACK!
I CAN SEE THAT, BARNETT! THEIR FIREPOWER IS FAR GREATER THAN WE ESTIMATED!

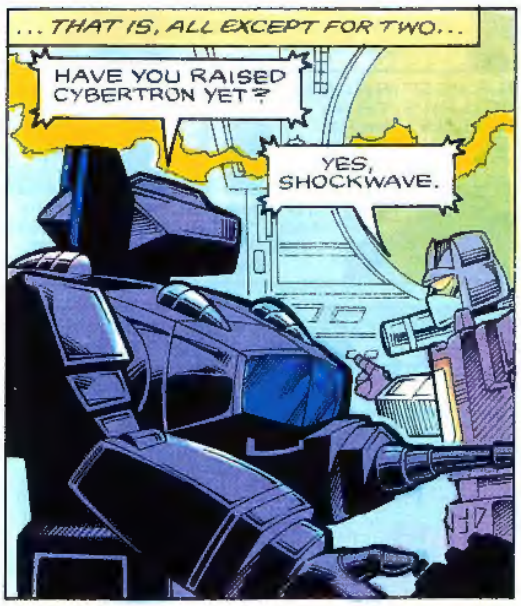

WE NEED MORE TROOPS AND WEAPONS! RETREAT!


SOON...
DECEPTICONS--REPORT!
SWINDLE PRESENT, BUT WHAT'S THE DEAL, CHIEF?
MOTORMASTER PRESENT. AS STUNTICON COMMANDER, I DEMAND TO KNOW THE REASON FOR YOUR ACTIONS!
ONSLAUGHT PRESENT. MY COMBATICONS WON'T GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT MY SAY-SO. WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
DEAD END PRESENT. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHAT WE DO. WE'RE ALL GONNA WIND UP IN THE JUNKYARD SOME DAY, ANYWAY.
SILENCE!! WHAT I DO IS NOT OPEN TO DEBATE!
DECEPTICONS, TRANSFORM--OR DIE!

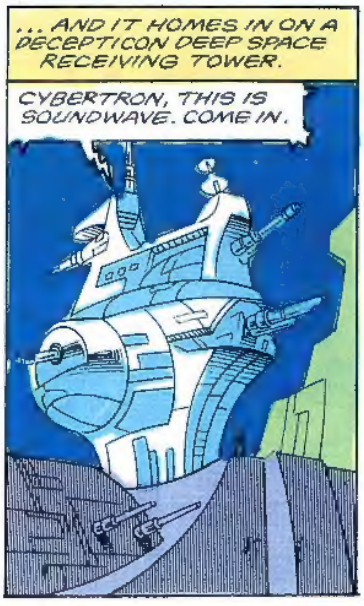

THE FOUR DECEPTICONS, AS WELL AS...
...VORTEX...
...BLAST OFF...
...DRAG STRIP...
...AND THE OTHER DECEPTICONS PRESENT, UNWILLING TO RISK FULFILLING MEGATRON'S SECOND ORDER, INSTANTLY OBEY HIS FIRST.

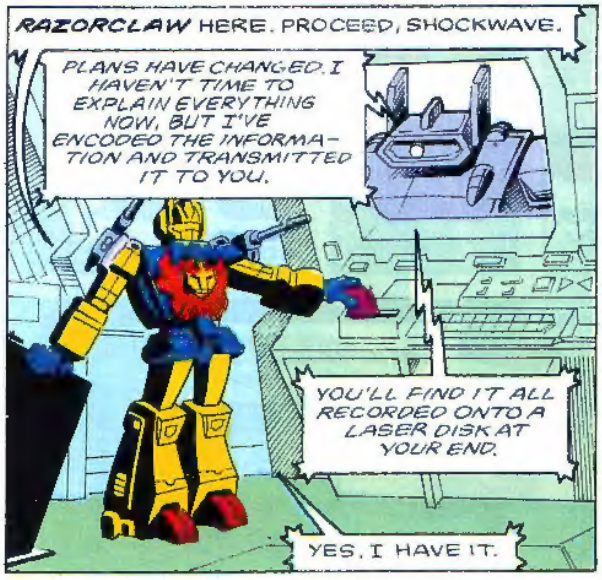

MEGATRON ALSO TRANSFORMS, AND COMMANDS DRAG STRIP TO CARRY HIM TO THEIR DESTINATION.


NOW ADAPTED TO THEIR EARTHEN FORMS, ALL THE DECEPTICONS MOVE OUT...

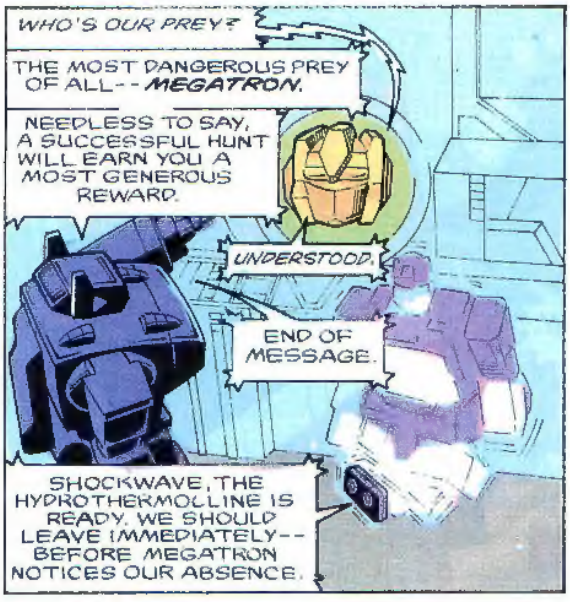

...THAT IS, ALL EXCEPT FOR TWO...
HAVE YOU RAISED CYBERTRON YET?
YES, SHOCKWAVE.

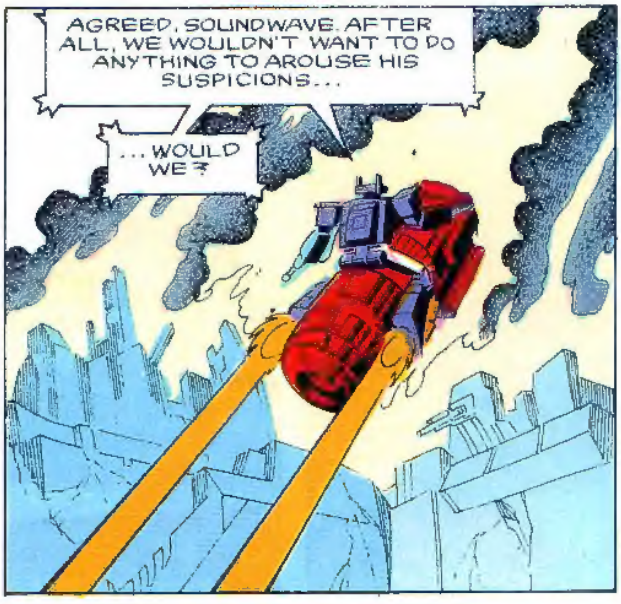
THE COMMUNICATIONS LINK-UP OPENS A CHANNEL THAT INTER-DIMENSIONALLY BRIDGES THE LIGHT YEARS-WIDE GAP SEPARATING EARTH FROM CYBERTRON...

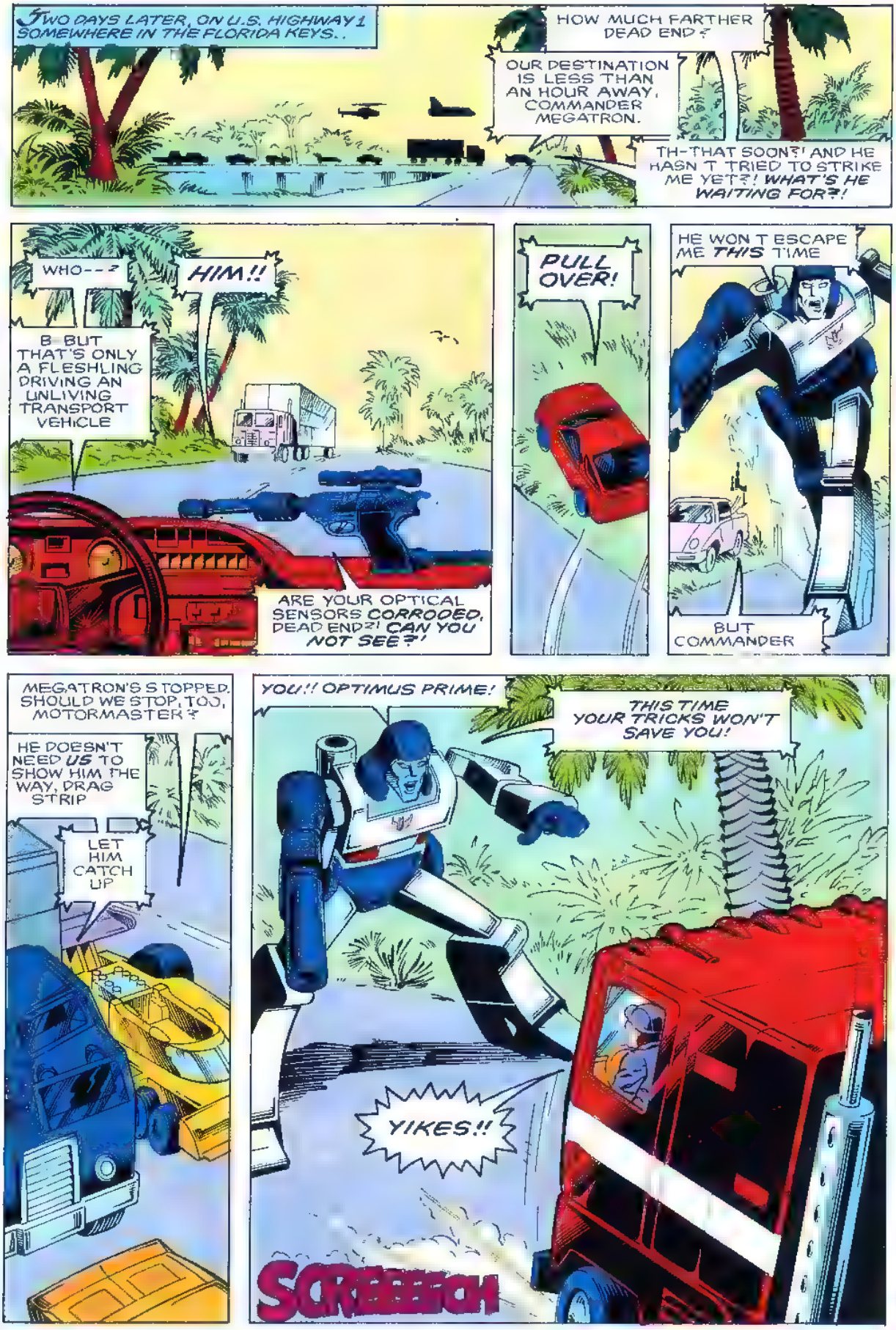

...AND IT HOMES IN ON A DECEPTICON DEEP SPACE RECEIVING TOWER.
CYBERTRON, THIS IS SOUNDWAVE. COME IN.


RAZORCLAW HERE. PROCEED, SHOCKWAVE.
PLANS HAVE CHANGED. I HAVEN'T TIME TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING NOW, BUT I'VE ENCODED THE INFORMATION AND TRANSMITTED IT TO YOU.
YOU'LL FIND IT ALL RECORDED ONTO A LASER DISK AT YOUR END.
YES, I HAVE IT.

I'M INSERTING IT INTO MY MEMORY NOW.
GOOD.
YOU'LL FIND COORDINATES TO WHICH YOU'LL SEND THE SPACE BRIDGE. THERE IS ALSO AN ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT.
AS LEADER OF THE PREDACONS YOU'LL APPRECIATE THIS, RAZORCLAW. IT INVOLVES YOUR TEAM'S SPECIALTY--HUNTING.


WHO'S OUR PREY?
THE MOST DANGEROUS PREY OF ALL--MEGATRON.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, A SUCCESSFUL HUNT WILL EARN YOU A MOST GENEROUS REWARD.
UNDERSTOOD.
END OF MESSAGE.
SHOCKWAVE, THE HYDROTHERMOLLINE IS READY. WE SHOULD LEAVE IMMEDIATELY--BEFORE MEGATRON NOTICES OUR ABSENCE.


AGREED, SOUNDWAVE. AFTER ALL, WE WOULDN'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO AROUSE HIS SUSPICIONS...
...WOULD WE?


TWO DAYS LATER, ON U.S. HIGHWAY 1 SOMEWHERE IN THE FLORIDA KEYS..
HOW MUCH FARTHER DEAD END?
OUR DESTINATION IS LESS THAN AN HOUR AWAY, COMMANDER MEGATRON.
TH-THAT SOON?! AND HE HASN'T TRIED TO STRIKE ME YET?! WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR?!
WHO--?
HIM!!
B-BUT THAT'S ONLY A FLESHLING DRIVING AN UNLIVING TRANSPORT VEHICLE
ARE YOUR OPTICAL SENSORS CORRODED, DEAD END?! CAN YOU NOT SEE?!
PULL OVER!
HE WON'T ESCAPE ME THIS TIME
BUT COMMANDER
MEGATRON'S STOPPED. SHOULD WE STOP, TOO, MOTORMASTER?
HE DOESN'T NEED US TO SHOW HIM THE WAY, DRAG STRIP
LET HIM CATCH UP
YOU!! OPTIMUS PRIME!
THIS TIME YOUR TRICKS WON'T SAVE YOU!
YIKES!!
SCREEEECH

BAWOOM
C-COMMANDER, DO YOU SEE? THAT WASN'T OPTIMUS PRIME--IT WAS ONLY A TRUCK!
I SEE THAT NOW, DEAD END...
...BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN OPTIMUS PRIME
AND IF IT HAD BEEN... HE'D BE DEAD
BUT... BUT COMMANDER... HE'S ALREADY DEAD.

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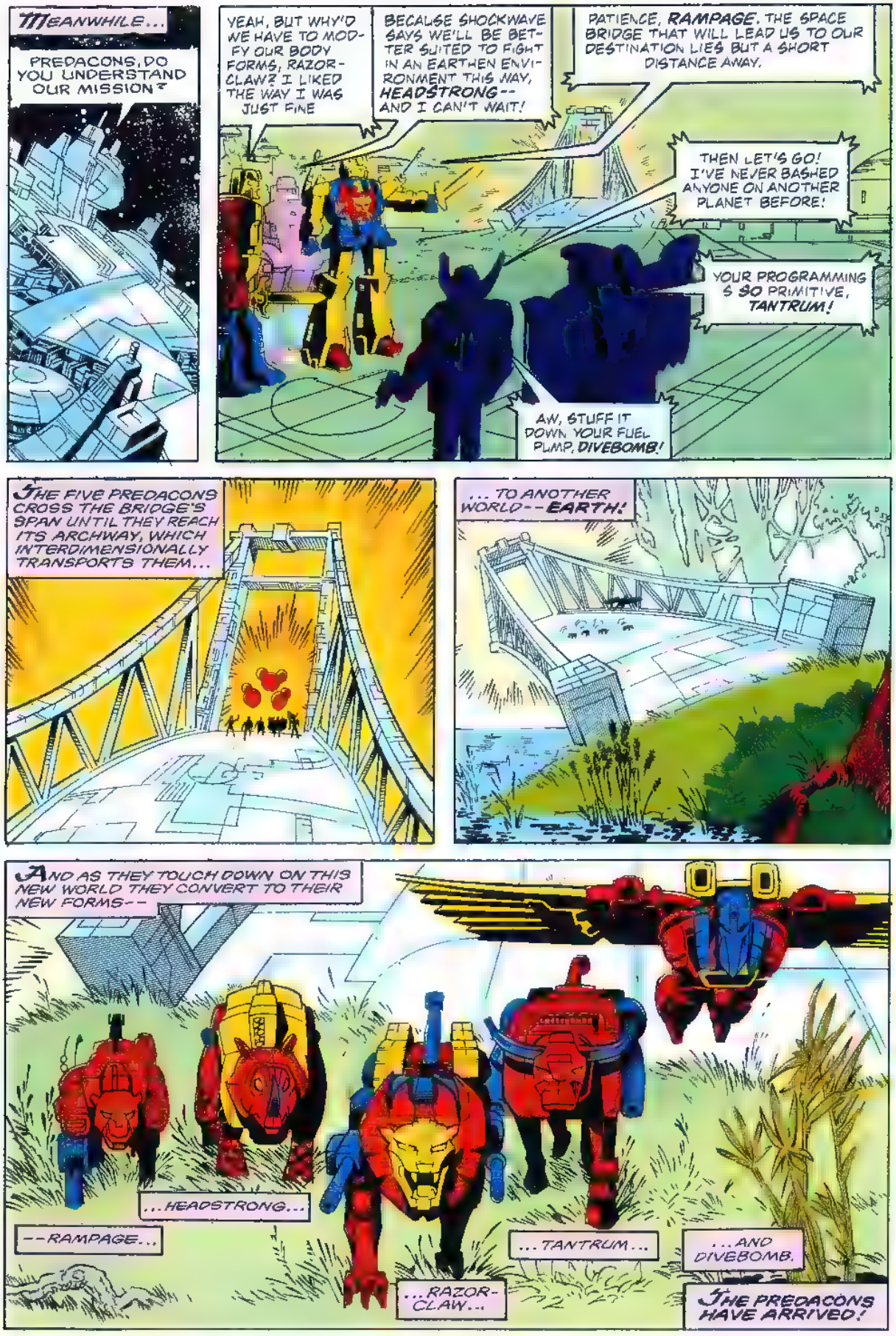
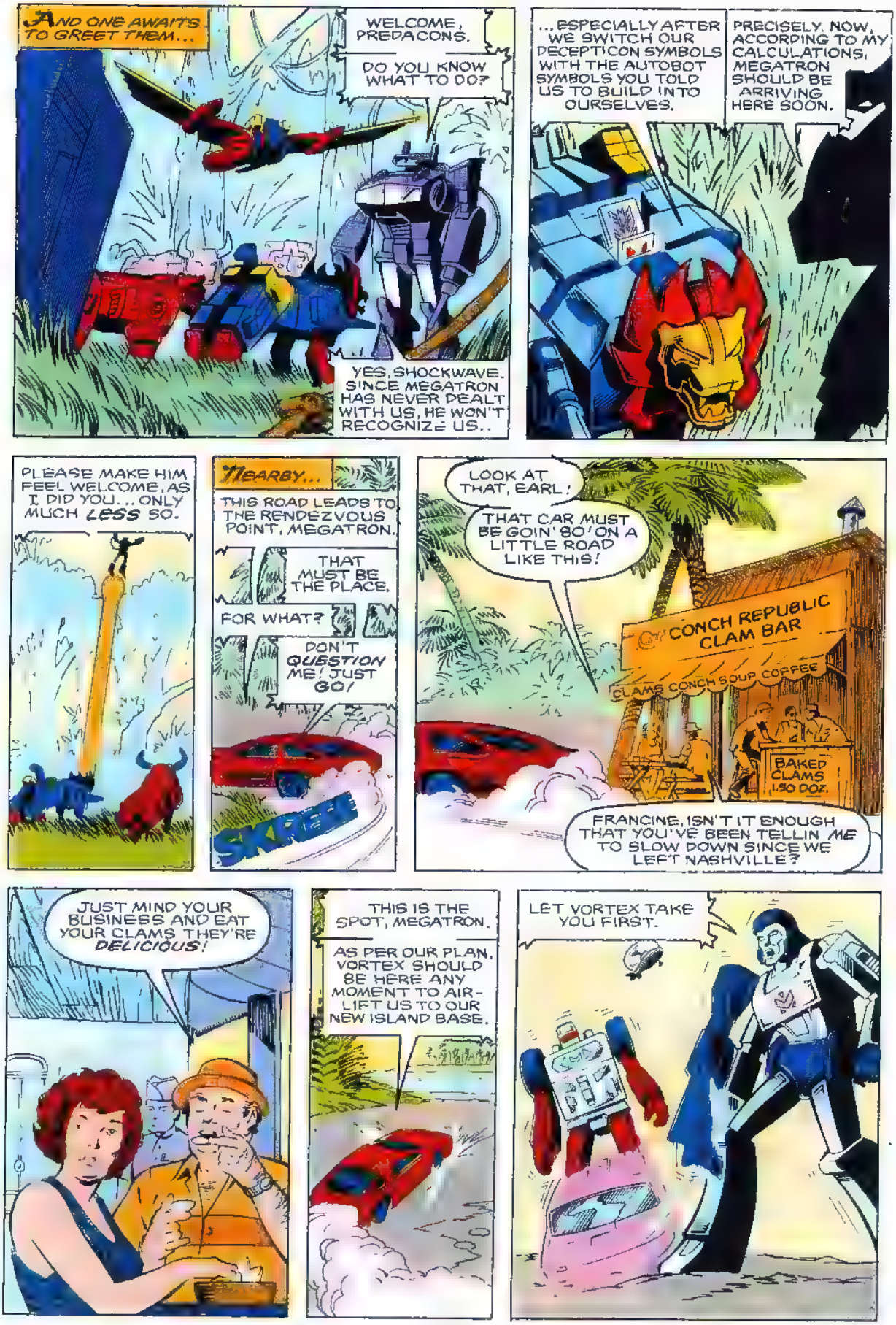
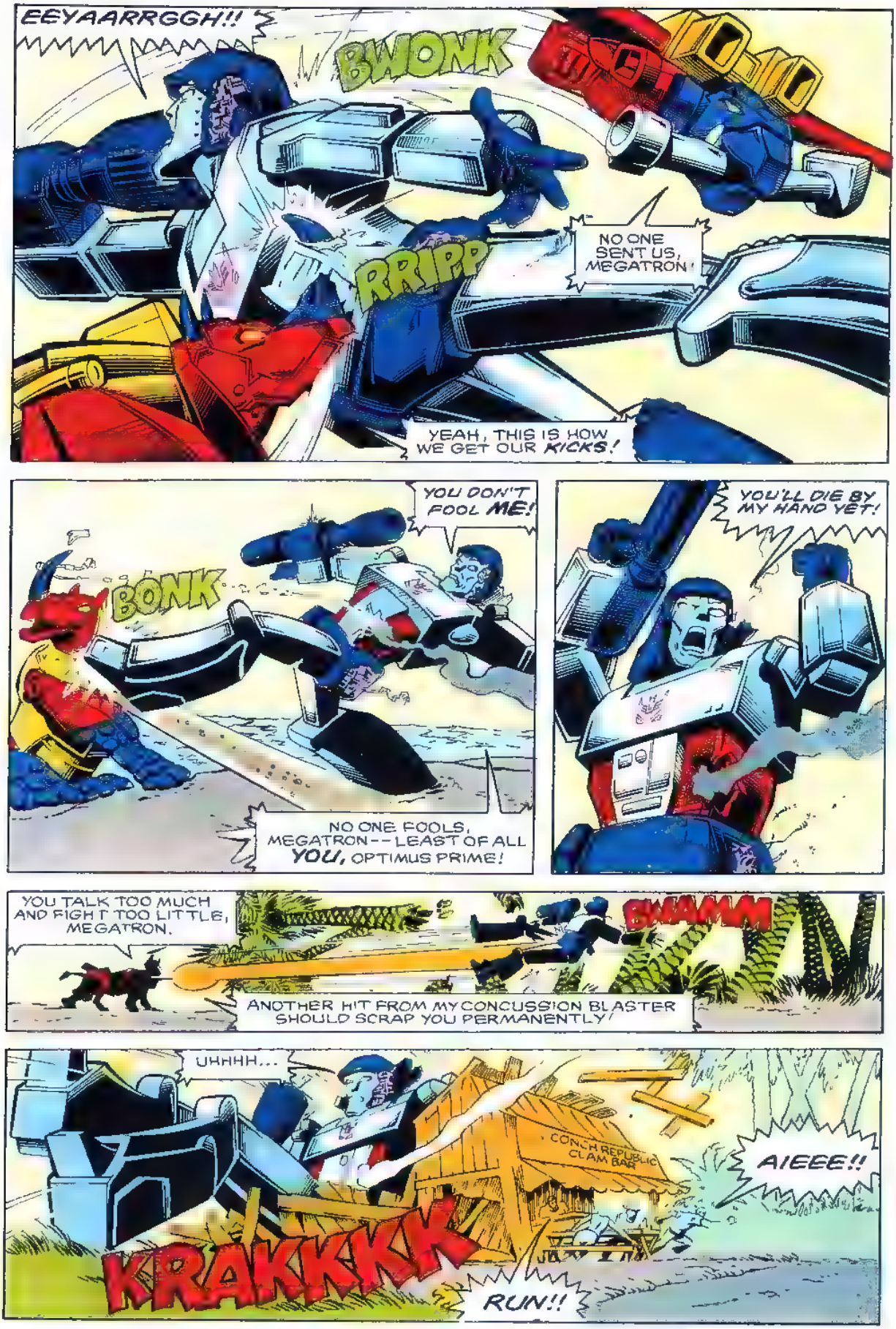
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC AUTOBOT
STRIKE TWO, MEGATRON...
YOU'RE OUT!

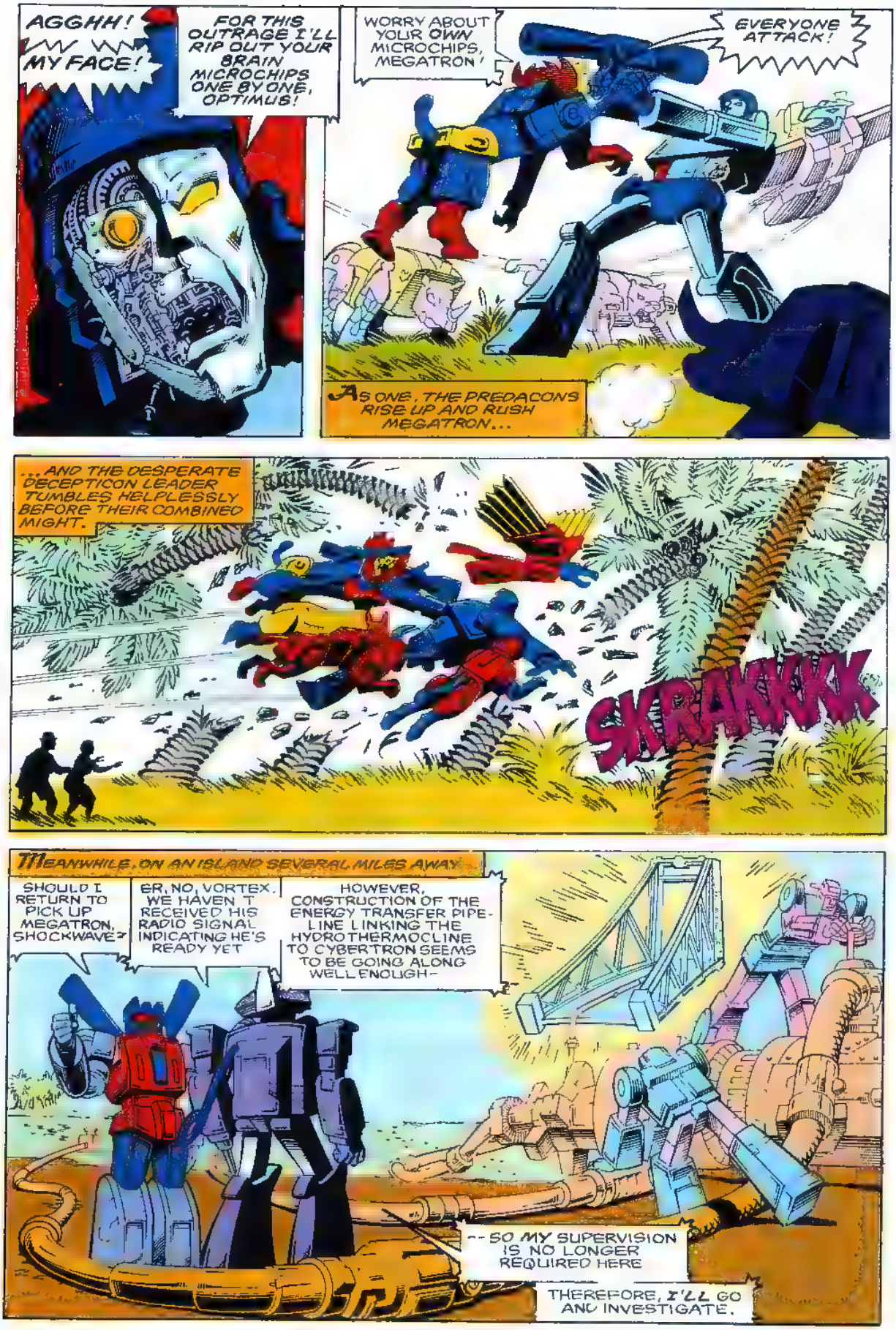

MEANWHILE...
PREDACONS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND OUR MISSION?
YEAH, BUT WHY'D WE HAVE TO MODIFY OUR BODY FORMS, RAZORCLAW? I LIKED THE WAY I WAS JUST FINE
BECAUSE SHOCKWAVE SAYS WE'LL BE BETTER SUITED TO FIGHT IN AN EARTHEN ENVIRONMENT THIS WAY, HEADSTRONG--AND I CAN'T WAIT!
PATIENCE, RAMPAGE. THE SPACE BRIDGE THAT WILL LEAD US TO OUR DESTINATION LIES BUT A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY.
THEN LET'S GO! I'VE NEVER BASHED ANYONE ON ANOTHER PLANET BEFORE!
YOUR PROGRAMMING $ SO PRIMITIVE, TANTRUM!
AW, STUFF IT DOWN YOUR FUEL PUMP, DIVEBOMB!
THE FIVE PREDACONS CROSS THE BRIDGE'S SPAN UNTIL THEY REACH ITS ARCHWAY, WHICH INTERDIMENSIONALLY TRANSPORTS THEM...
...TO ANOTHER WORLD--EARTH!
AND AS THEY TOUCH DOWN ON THIS NEW WORLD THEY CONVERT TO THEIR NEW FORMS--
--RAMPAGE...
...HEADSTRONG...
...RAZORCLAW...
...TANTRUM...
...AND DIVEBOMB.
THE PREDACONS HAVE ARRIVED!


AND ONE AWAITS TO GREET THEM...
WELCOME, PREDACONS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
YES, SHOCKWAVE. SINCE MEGATRON HAS NEVER DEALT WITH US, HE WON'T RECOGNIZE US..
...ESPECIALLY AFTER WE SWITCH OUR DECEPTICON SYMBOLS WITH THE AUTOBOT SYMBOLS YOU TOLD US TO BUILD INTO OURSELVES.
PRECISELY. NOW, ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, MEGATRON SHOULD BE ARRIVING HERE SOON.
PLEASE MAKE HIM FEEL WELCOME, AS I DID YOU... ONLY MUCH LESS SO.
NEARBY...
THIS ROAD LEADS TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, MEGATRON.
THAT MUST BE THE PLACE.
FOR WHAT?
DON'T QUESTION ME! JUST GO!
SKREEE
LOOK AT THAT, EARL!
THAT CAR MUST BE GOIN' 80 ON A LITTLE ROAD LIKE THIS!
CONCH REPUBLIC CLAM BAR
CLAMS CONCH SOUP COFFEE
BAKED CLAMS 1.50 DOZ.
FRANCINE, ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT YOU'VE BEEN TELLIN ME TO SLOW DOWN SINCE WE LEFT NASHVILLE?
JUST MIND YOUR BUSINESS AND EAT YOUR CLAMS. THEY'RE DELICIOUS!
THIS IS THE SPOT, MEGATRON.
AS PER OUR PLAN, VORTEX SHOULD BE HERE ANY MOMENT TO AIR-LIFT US TO OUR NEW ISLAND BASE.
LET VORTEX TAKE YOU FIRST.

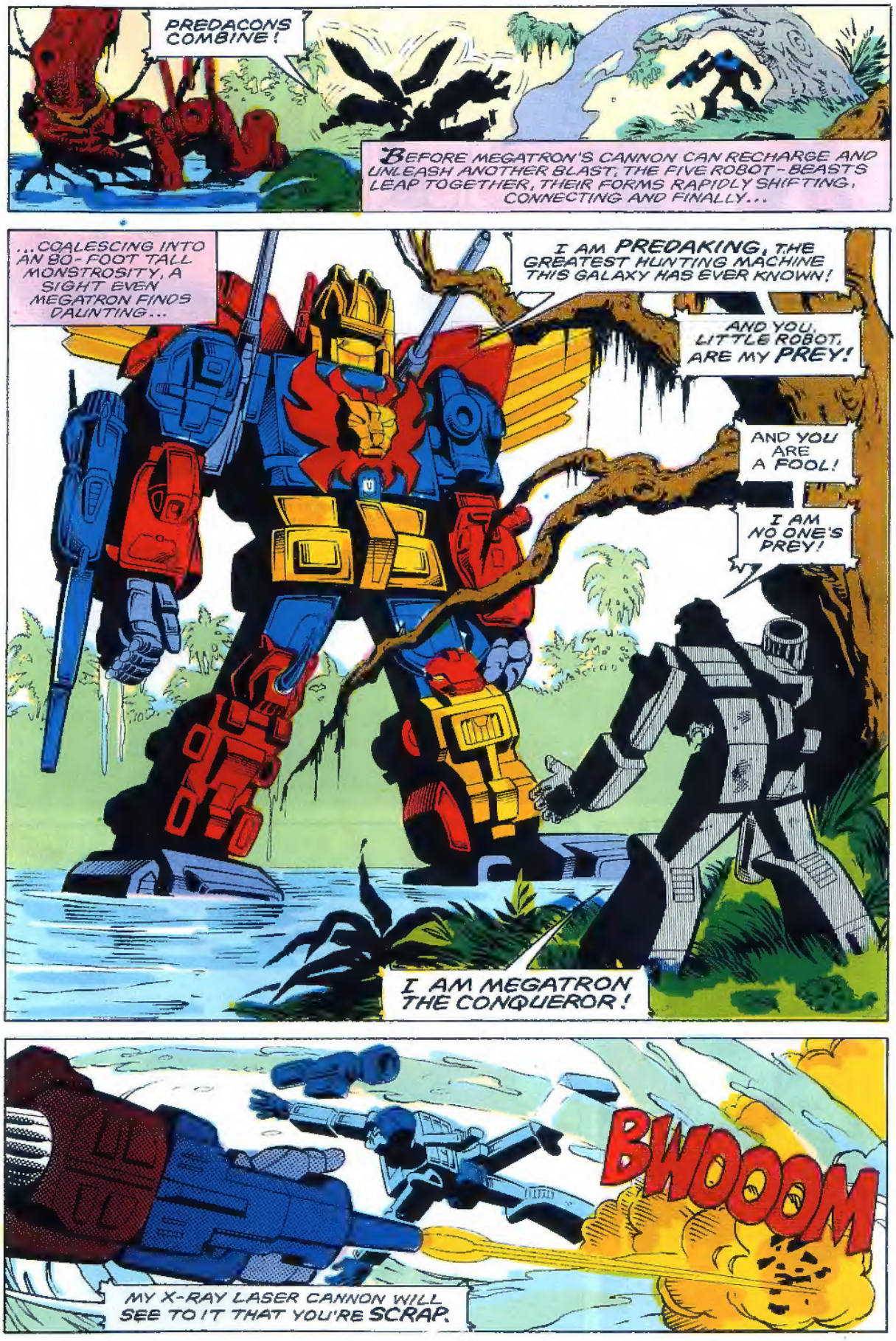
I'LL AWAIT HIS RETURN.
HE'S HERE.
HE MUST BE.
SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF THE SURROUNDING SWAMP...
WHAT?! WHO ARE YOU?!
THE BEST WAY TO ANSWER THAT ..
ARRGGGH!!
KRUNNK
...IS BY SHOWING YOU!
WE'RE YOUR DOOM, MEGATRON!
THE AUTOBOT SYMBOL! YOU'RE AUTOBOTS!
OPTIMUS PRIME SENT YOU TO KILL ME!
THE COWARD DARES NOT FACE ME HIMSELF!


EEYAARRGGH!!
BWONK
RRIPP
NO ONE SENT US, MEGATRON!
YEAH, THIS IS HOW WE GET OUR KICKS!
YOU DON'T FOOL ME!
BONK
NO ONE FOOLS, MEGATRON--LEAST OF ALL YOU, OPTIMUS PRIME!
YOU'LL DIE BY MY HAND YET!
YOU TALK TOO MUCH AND FIGHT TOO LITTLE, MEGATRON.
BWAMM
ANOTHER HIT FROM MY CONCUSSION BLASTER SHOULD SCRAP YOU PERMANENTLY!
UHHHH...
CONCH REPUBLIC CLAM BAR
AIEEE!!
KRAKKKK
RUN!!

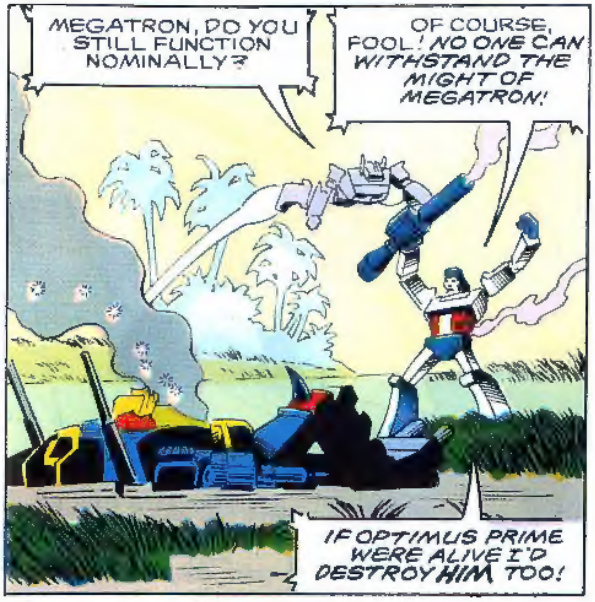
C'MON, EARL! LET'S GO!
R-RIGHT, FRANCINE! I'M COMING!
BUT A FEW FOR THE ROAD, OKAY?
YOU'VE SQUANDERED YOUR ADVANTAGE, AUTOBOTS!
YOU'VE LAUNCHED YOUR SURPRISE ATTACK--AND I STILL LIVE!
DID OPTIMUS PRIME PLAN FOR THAT POSSIBILITY, EH?
DID HE PLAN FOR YOUR DEATHS?
UNGHH!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO DO ANY DYING AROUND HERE, MEGATRON!

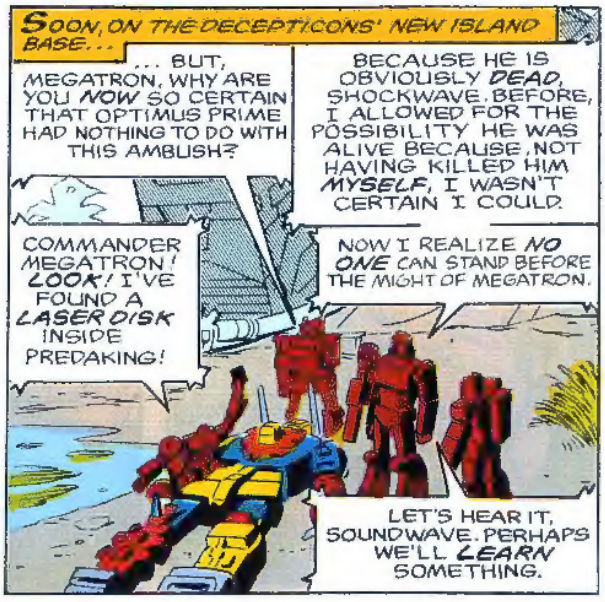

AGGHH! MY FACE!
FOR THIS OUTRAGE I'LL RIP OUT YOUR BRAIN MICROCHIPS ONE BY ONE, OPTIMUS!
WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN MICROCHIPS, MEGATRON!
EVERYONE ATTACK!
AS ONE, THE PREDACONS RISE UP AND RUSH MEGATRON...
...AND THE DESPERATE DECEPTICON LEADER TUMBLES HELPLESSLY BEFORE THEIR COMBINED MIGHT.
SKRAKKKK
MEANWHILE, ON AN ISLAND SEVERAL MILES AWAY...
SHOULD I RETURN TO PICK UP MEGATRON, SHOCKWAVE?
ER, NO, VORTEX. WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED HIS RADIO SIGNAL INDICATING HE'S READY YET
HOWEVER, CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENERGY TRANSFER PIPELINE LINKING THE HYDROTHERMOCLINE TO CYBERTRON SEEMS TO BE GOING ALONG WELL ENOUGH--
--SO MY SUPERVISION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED HERE
THEREFORE, I'LL GO AND INVESTIGATE.

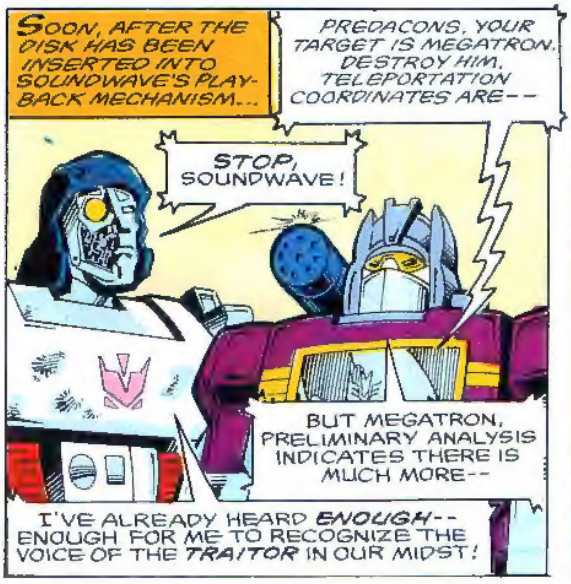
PERHAPS MEGATRON IS IN TROUBLE.
ELSEWHERE...
WHAM
GET YOUR RUST-FLAKED PAWS OFF ME, AUTO-JUNKS!
IT'LL TAKE MORE POWER THAN YOU POSSESS TO DESTROY ME!
BUT EVEN A GLANCING BLAST FROM MY FUSION CANNON WILL TURN ANY OF YOU TO MOLECULAR DUST IN AN INSTANT!
KBLAM
HE'S STILL TOO STRONG WE'VE HARDLY SLOWED HIM A BIT!
HE'LL PICK US OFF ONE AT A TIME AS LONG AS WE'RE IN THESE MODES!

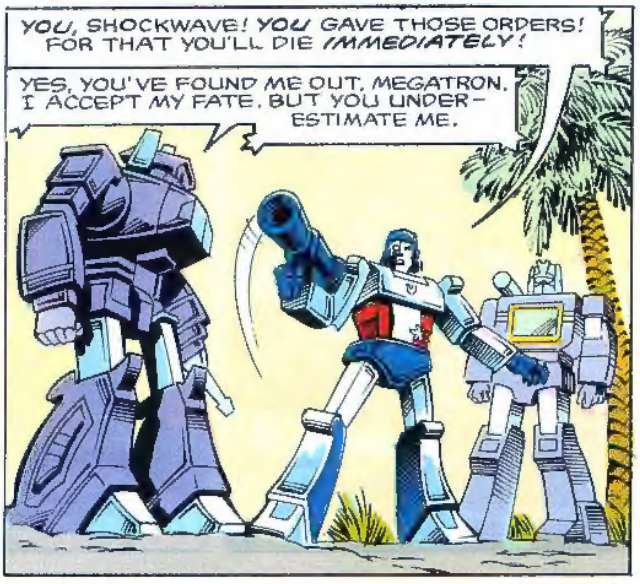

PREDACONS COMBINE!
BEFORE MEGATRON'S CANNON CAN RECHARGE AND UNLEASH ANOTHER BLAST, THE FIVE ROBOT-BEASTS LEAP TOGETHER, THEIR FORMS RAPIDLY SHIFTING, CONNECTING AND FINALLY...
...COALESCING INTO AN 80-FOOT TALL MONSTROSITY, A SIGHT EVEN MEGATRON FINDS DAUNTING...
I AM PREDAKING, THE GREATEST HUNTING MACHINE THIS GALAXY HAS EVER KNOWN!
AND YOU, LITTLE ROBOT, ARE MY PREY!
AND YOU ARE A FOOL!
I AM NO ONE'S PREY!
I AM MEGATRON THE CONQUEROR!
BWOOOM
MY X-RAY LASER CANNON WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU'RE SCRAP.

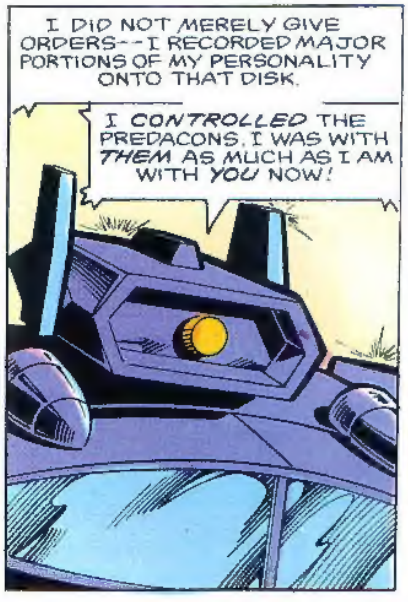
HE'S SETTING UP FOR ANOTHER SHOT...AND I DROPPED MY FUSION CANNON...
MEGATRON, LET US DEAL WITH THIS MENACE TOGETHER!
KABOOOM
SHOCKWAVE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! GO AWAY!
BONK
UNGH!!
I NEED NO ONE'S HELP--ROBOT OR HUMAN!
FROM NOW ON I FIGHT MY OWN BATTLES!
BWAMM
I DESTROY MY OWN ENEMIES!


MEGATRON, DO YOU STILL FUNCTION NOMINALLY?
OF COURSE, FOOL! NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND THE MIGHT OF MEGATRON!
IF OPTIMUS PRIME WERE ALIVE I'D DESTROY HIM, TOO!


SOON, ON THE DECEPTICONS' NEW ISLAND BASE...
... BUT, MEGATRON, WHY ARE YOU NOW SO CERTAIN THAT OPTIMUS PRIME HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS AMBUSH?
BECAUSE HE IS OBVIOUSLY DEAD, SHOCKWAVE. BEFORE, I ALLOWED FOR THE POSSIBILITY HE WAS ALIVE BECAUSE, NOT HAVING KILLED HIM MYSELF, I WASN'T CERTAIN I COULD.
COMMANDER MEGATRON! LOOK! I'VE FOUND A LASER DISK INSIDE PREDAKING!
NOW I REALIZE NO ONE CAN STAND BEFORE THE MIGHT OF MEGATRON.
LET'S HEAR IT, SOUNDWAVE. PERHAPS WE'LL LEARN SOMETHING.

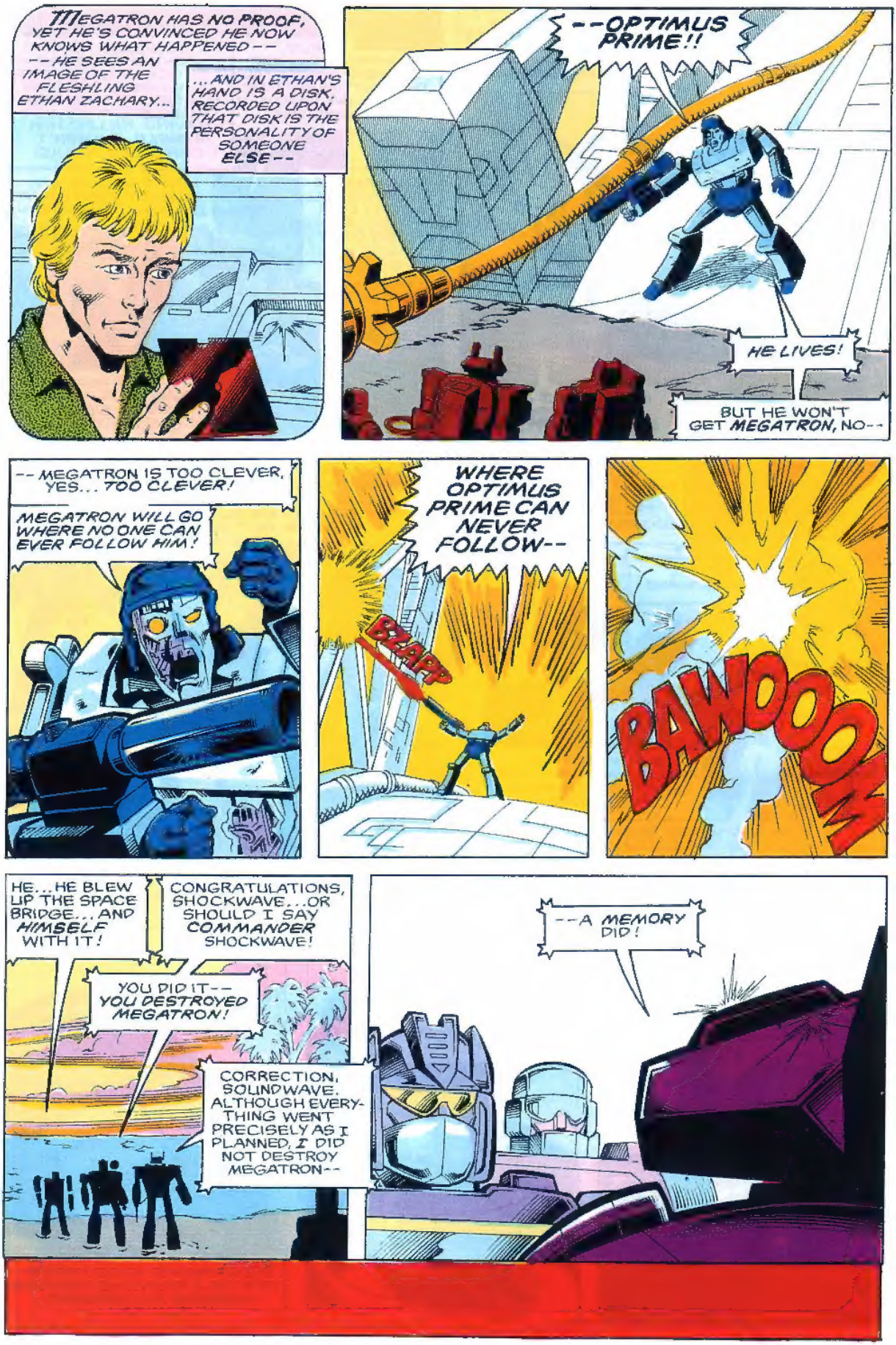

SOON, AFTER THE DISK HAS BEEN INSERTED INTO SOUNDWAVE'S PLAY-BACK MECHANISM...
PREDACONS, YOUR TARGET IS MEGATRON. DESTROY HIM. TELEPORTATION COORDINATES ARE--
STOP, SOUNDWAVE!
BUT MEGATRON, PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS INDICATES THERE IS MUCH MORE--
I'VE ALREADY HEARD ENOUGH--ENOUGH FOR ME TO RECOGNIZE THE VOICE OF THE TRAITOR IN OUR MIDST!


YOU, SHOCKWAVE! YOU GAVE THOSE ORDERS! FOR THAT YOU'LL DIE IMMEDIATELY!
YES, YOU'VE FOUND ME OUT, MEGATRON. I ACCEPT MY FATE. BUT YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.


I DID NOT MERELY GIVE ORDERS--I RECORDED MAJOR PORTIONS OF MY PERSONALITY ONTO THAT DISK.
I CONTROLLED THE PREDACONS. I WAS WITH THEM AS MUCH AS I AM WITH YOU NOW!

YOU DATA-SPOUTING IDIOT! EVEN AS YOU FACE OBLIVION, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT DETAIL YOUR TRIVIAL TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS!
WELL, IN MOMENTS THAT LASER DISK COPY OF YOUR PERSONALITY WILL BE ALL THAT IS...

... LEFT OF... YOU...
MEGATRON'S VOICE TRAILS OFF AS A HAUNTING THOUGHT INVADES HIS CEREBRO-CIRCUITRY...


MEGATRON HAS NO PROOF, YET HE'S CONVINCED HE NOW KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED--
--HE SEES AN IMAGE OF THE FLESHLING ETHAN ZACHARY...
...AND IN ETHAN'S HAND IS A DISK. RECORDED UPON THAT DISK IS THE PERSONALITY OF SOMEONE ELSE--
--OPTIMUS PRIME!!
HE LIVES!
BUT HE WON'T GET MEGATRON, NO--
-- MEGATRON IS TOO CLEVER, YES... TOO CLEVER!
MEGATRON WILL GO WHERE NO ONE CAN EVER FOLLOW HIM!
WHERE OPTIMUS PRIME CAN NEVER FOLLOW--
BZAPP
BAWOOOM
HE...HE BLEW UP THE SPACE BRIDGE...AND HIMSELF WITH IT!
CONGRATULATIONS, SHOCKWAVE...OR SHOULD I SAY COMMANDER SHOCKWAVE!
YOU DID IT-- YOU DESTROYED MEGATRON!
CORRECTION, SOUNDWAVE. ALTHOUGH EVERYTHING WENT PRECISELY AS I PLANNED, I DID NOT DESTROY MEGATRON--
--A MEMORY DID!